

ARTICLE ALERT

May 2009

The American Center's Baldwin Library is pleased to offer you **ARTICLE ALERT**, a monthly current affairs publication. It is designed to keep library users abreast of issues and concerns in the United States.

Full texts of all listed articles are available upon request at The American Center's Baldwin Library. Please contact us at Tel. 95-1-223106 or 95-1-223140; or email rangoonirc@state.gov

Library provides two articles free of charge.

DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

1. "Human Costs of the Tumult"

Janis Foo. *Far Eastern Economic Review*, April 2009, 5 pages.

The author discusses human trafficking in Asia and questions whether or not the economic downturn will make this existing human rights crisis even worse. While both the supply of desperate workers from source countries and the demand in destination countries for cheap and easily exploitable labor grows, the author predicts that post-crisis, Asian governments will face an even greater threat from the evils of human trafficking unless they take concerted action now.

2. "Dusk or Dawn for the Human Rights Movement?"

Sarah E. Mendelson. *The Washington Quarterly*, April 2009, 18 pages.

The author argues that unless the human rights community in the United States makes the strategic case about the inherent dangers to national security that come from overlooking abuse or corrupt rule of law, the issue of human rights will not be able to shape U.S. foreign policy during the Obama years. The role of the United States on the human rights movement and implications for the Obama administration are assessed.

3. "How Development Leads to Democracy"

Ronald Inglehart and Christian Welzel. *Foreign Affairs*, March/April 2009, 16 pages.

Discussing economic elements that result in the foundation of new democracies in the developing world, the authors contend that the formation of democracies is not based solely on an expressed desire for that form of government, but instead that democracies are born as a result of the admixture of certain social and cultural factors.

4. "Center-Left America?"

Pietro S. Nivola. *Issues in Governance Studies No. 24*, April 2009, 11 pages.
Which way does the American public lean—left or right—on the dominant questions of public policy these days? The author examines public attitudes toward the economic crisis, health care, the environment, immigration, and foreign affairs. He argues that Americans appear to have tilted toward the Democrats only on some matters and that much of the public remains divided or doubtful about the capacity of government to meet the nation's greatest challenges.

ECONOMIC SECURITY AND TRADE

5. "Asia's Fate in the New World Order"

Mark Thirlwell. *Far Eastern Economic Review*, March 2009, 6 pages.

It is clear that the world economy is changing, and Asia's fortunes with it. The question, however, is by how much? Does this also mean that Asia should expect a fundamental change in the long-term trajectory of the international economy? If so, what will that mean for the region? The author discusses these questions, arguing that the financial and economic crises could lead to a larger role for Asia in world affairs.

6. "APEC and Future Asia-Pacific Regional Architecture"

Richard W. X. Hu. *American Foreign Policy Interests*, January 2009, 11 pages.
How can the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) contribute to regional institutional building in the future? How will it be related to the emerging regional architecture in the Asia-Pacific region? The author analyzes APEC's role in regional community building, the forces shaping future regional architecture, the challenges and weaknesses that APEC is facing in the competitive environment of region building, and the possible roles that APEC can play in the construction of a regional architecture in the Asia-Pacific.

7. "America's Edge: Power in the Networked Century"

Anne-Marie Slaughter. *Foreign Affairs*, January/February 2009, 20 pages.
The author discusses the emerging networked world of the 21st century, noting that a number of significant factors and events, such as international business, are administered by networks that link individuals and institutions, and the ability of the state to convert this connectivity into economic activity and growth will be the measure of the success of that state. The United States' unique ability to capitalize on connectivity that will make the 21st century an American century is also examined.

8. "A Glimmer of Hope?"

The Economist, April 25, 2009, 2 pages.

Different economic indicators from different parts of the world have brightened and

confidence appears to be growing, but it is said that economic indicators contain traps that pose the danger of possible unwarranted optimism. The article discusses those traps and examines international economic conditions which affect economic policy.

9. "The G2 Mirage: Why the United States and China are not ready to upgrade ties"

Elizabeth C. Economy and Adam Segal. *Foreign Affairs*, Vol.88, no.3, May-June 2009, 2 pages.

Economy and Segal, senior fellows at the Council on Foreign Relations, argue that the U.S. and China are still too far apart in many ways to succeed by themselves in solving global problems. Without doubt they are key players in resolving problems of economics, environment, and stability.

REGIONAL SECURITY

10. "Political Realignment in Southeast Asia"

Hal Hill. *Far Eastern Economic Review*, April 2009, 6 pages.

Will the global financial crisis permanently alter the region's political economy and development dynamics? Does it signal the end of the so-called East Asian model, or at least a substantial modification of it? The author examines short-term effects of the crisis on Southeast Asia in comparison to long-term threats.

11. "The United States and the Asia-Pacific Region: Security Strategy for the Obama Administration"

Ralph A. Cossa, et al. *Center for a New American Century*, February 2009, 88 pages.

Recognizing the geopolitical shifts toward Asia that have been underway for the past decade and the likelihood of growing regional tensions due to the global financial crisis, the authors urge the Obama administration to move quickly to articulate a new strategy for the region. They assess U.S. strategic imperatives in the Asia-Pacific and provide a few policy recommendations for the Obama administration.

12. "Center Stage for the Twenty-first Century"

Robert D. Kaplan. *Foreign Affairs*, March/April 2009, 16 pages.

The author examines geopolitical factors surrounding the future of the India Ocean, as it is central to understanding geopolitics in the 21st century. It also combines the centrality of Islam with global energy politics and the rise of India and China to reveal a multilayered, multi-polar world. Related geopolitical challenges in Asia that the United States faces are also discussed.

13. "Biotechnology and Biological Weapons: Challenges to the U.S. Regional Stability Strategy"

Francisco Galamas. *Comparative Strategy*, April 2009, 6 pages.

The author explains why biotechnologies may significantly alter the notion that

biological weapons have been considered incapable of deterring nuclear weapons states. The implications of genetically modified biological weapons in regions fundamental to U.S. vital interests and the possibilities that these weapons can alter the regional balance of power are also reviewed.

GLOBAL ISSUES AND ENVIRONMENT

14. "A Realistic Energy Strategy"

Tsvi Bisk. *The Futurist*, March/April 2009, 7 pages.

The author argues that the obstacle to deploying solutions to the energy crisis is the people's inability to differentiate between ideological and strategic thinking. He offers a rational energy strategy and discusses impractical solutions.

15. "The Geoengineering Option"

David G Victor, et al. *Foreign Affairs*, March/April 2009, 13 pages.

The authors examine a possible solution to the global warming and climate change problems -- a process known as "geoengineering" -- that could be developed that would alter the global climate and return it to a more beneficial state.

16. "Is Local Food Better?"

Sarah DeWeerd. *World Watch*, May/June 2009, 5 pages.

The local food movement has been gaining momentum in developed countries and in many developing countries, as well. The claimed benefits of local foods are driving health- and environment-conscious consumers to seek alternatives to the industrial agriculture system whose products dominate grocery store shelves. The author examines the potential environmental impacts of greater localization of food and whether local food is really more environmental-friendly.

17. "More Medicines"

Ellen 't Hoen and Tido von Schoen-Angerer. *The World Today*, February 2009, 2 pages.

The authors discuss possible policy solutions to the rising cost of medicines internationally, as intellectual property protections are extended around the world. The "patent pool," a method whereby patent-holders would make their patents available to one another on a non-exclusive basis and receive royalties for their use, is also discussed.

MEDIA, COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

18. "Media Censorship Escalates in Asia"

David Bandurski and Geoffrey Cain. *Far Eastern Economic Review*, March 2009, 7 pages.

With China leading the way, censorship is gaining sophistication throughout Asia. Even countries that previously showcased a flourishing, open media are now cracking

down on press freedoms. The authors discuss how the rest of Asia is following China's lead in cracking down on the media.

19. "Down to the Wire: Journalism in Crisis"

Marvin Kalb, et al. *The Kalb Report*, March 23, 2009, 23 pages.

Major American newspapers are in a state of bankruptcy, while some have already folded up and gone online. What are the problems? What specifically can be done to save American journalism? Four influential news executives, Vivian Schiller, President & CEO, NPR; Jon Klein, President, CNN; Tom Curley, President & CEO, Associated Press; and Alberto Ibargüen, President & CEO, Knight Foundation, join the author in discussion how they plan to guide their industry through this transition and how they plan to lead the current reporting revolution.

20. "If the News Is That Important, It will Find Me"

Nancy Herther. *Searcher*, April 2009, 11 pages.

Is the web mature enough to provide an adequate alternative to print news sources? Where will the quality once found in print sources come from in the future? The author seeks answer to these questions from Nora Paul and Kathleen Hanson, former newspaper librarians who currently work at a major journalism school teaching the next generation of writers. The future of journalism and the emergence of online news delivery are also evaluated.

21. "Twitter for Libraries"

Sarah Milstein. *Computers in Libraries*, May 2009, 2 pages.

The author discusses Twitter -- the fast-growing, free micro-blogging network -- and looks at how libraries can make good use of the tool without spending much time or effort. Ways in which libraries in the United States are using Twitter to good effect is explored as are the reasons why it is a good place to find and connect with people interested in same area of expertise.

22. "Is Technology Tearing Apart Family Life?"

Dana Wollman. *Laptop*, March 2009, 4 pages.

The author discusses how text messaging, social networking and online video sharing are changing the dynamics between parents and children. Some believe that social networking will improve family interaction, while others argue that the new technology threatens to rip apart not only the family unity, but also the fabric of society itself, as more individuals communicate only through their high-tech devices, thus decreasing the amount of time they actually interact on a personal level.

23. "JOURNALIST OF THE FUTURE"

Priya Kumar. *American Journalism Review*, April/May 2009, 4 pages.

NBC's Mara Schiavocampo is being hailed as the first "digital correspondent." After spending a year as a freelance reporter "not bound by geography," the network was

so impressed it created a new position for her to showcase her cinema-verité style of storytelling. Schiavocampo comes up with story ideas, shoots video and still photography, edits, blogs and produces packages for the Web and television.

U.S. SOCIETY AND CULTURE

24. "Building a Culture of Achievement"

Marc R. Major. *The Education Digest*, April 2009, 5 pages.

The author discusses tips for teachers who wish to encourage a classroom culture that rewards student achievement. He also suggests five ways that teachers can create a cycle of success, including making the path to success explicit to students, believing that one's students can succeed, revealing the good habits of typical successful performers to all students, convincing students to exert effort by constantly challenging them and maintaining a high level of energy, and ensuring that every student tastes success.

25. "Does the World Still Care about American Culture?"

Richard Pells. *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, March 6, 2009, 2 pages.

The author examines changes in international perceptions of American culture, focusing on the decrease of the popularity of American culture in foreign countries and the previous popularity of American musicians, authors, artists and dancers.

26. "Little Boxes: The New Movement To Seriously Downsize Our Homes"

Kristin Bender. *E Magazine*, Vol. 20, no. 3, May-June 2009, 5 pages.

Bender describes how the environmental movement, rising energy prices, and the financial crisis of 2008 have affected Americans' attitudes about housing. Now, about forty percent of new construction is "green" because it is less expensive for homeowners over the long term and creates less construction waste.

27. "Exploiting Synergies Among Digital Repositories, Special Collections, And Online Community"

Terence K. Huwe. *Online*, vol. 33, no. 2, March/April 2009, 6 pages.

The author, director of library and information resources at the Institute for Research on Labor and Employment, University of California at Berkeley, believes that there was a time when the Library of Congress and a couple of other leading research libraries were the principal developers of high-quality digital collections. High-quality collections, handled properly and rigorously, can open doors and influence among non-library colleagues. Digital collections gain vast new readerships when they appear online in structured and searchable formats.